

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10091 211430Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /152 W

----- 051355

R 211233Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2175

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10091

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO PAKISTAN; PAK-
BANGLADESH RELATIONS

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL ON SOV AMBASSADOR RODIONOV
NOVEMBER 21, I NOTED FORTHCOMING VISIT BY GENERAL SECRETARY
BREZHNEV TO INDIA NEXT WEEK AND ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY
CHANCE THAT HE MIGHT ALSO BE VISITING PAKISTAN. RODIONOV
REPLIED THAT BREZHNEV HAD RECEIVED INVITATION TO VISIT
PAKISTAN BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW AS YET WHETHER HE WOULD
BE COMING. BREZHNEV'S CURRENT SCHEDULE CALLED FOR
HIM TO LEAVE NEW DELHI MORNING OF NOVEMBER 30 AND IF
HE WERE TO VISIT PAKISTAN HE WOULD PRESUMABLY COME
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10091 211430Z

DIRECTLY FROM DELHI AT THAT TIME. RODIONOV EXPRESSED

HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD THING
IF BREZHNEV COULD VISIT PAKISTAN ON HIS PRESENT TRAVEL
TO SUBCONTINENT.

2. RODIONOV SAID HE CONSIDERED THE OVERALL SITUATION
IN THE SUBCONTINENT, I.E., THE STATE OF RELATIONS AMONG
THE VARIOUS CONTRIES, TO BE PRETTY GOOD. IN VIEW,
THE ONE MAJOR ISSUE THAT HAD STILL TO BE RESOLVED WAS
PAKISTAN' RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH. HE HOPED GOP WOULD
FIND A WAY TO TAKE THE STEP. (RODIONOV HAD TOLD ME IN A
PREVIOUS CONVERSATION THAT MOSCOW WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE
ALL THE PAK POWS --HINCLUDING THE 195 HELD TENTATIVELY
FOR TRIAL -- RETURNRED TO PAKISTAN.)

3. LATER SAME MORNING PRIMIN BHUTTO REAFFIRMED TO ME
THERE IS NO WAY HE CAN RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH UNLESS THE
195 POWS ARE SENT BACK TO PAKISTAN. I ASKED HOW THIS
MIGHT COME ABOUT, ASSUMING IT MIGHT REQUIRE TALKS BETWEEN
GOP AND BDG WHEREAS BDG HAD TAKEN POSITION THERE COULD
BE NO SUCH TALKS EXCEPT ON BASIS OF "SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" --
I.E., PRIOR RECOGNITION BY PAKISTAN. BHUTTO INDICATED
HE HAD SOME REASON FOR HOPE THAT MEETING COULD BE
ARRANGED BETWEEN GOP AND BDG REPS AT LEVEL BELOW PRIME
MINISTER WITHOUT PRIOR RECOGNITION. HE WAS PREPARED
TO HAVE GOP PARTICIPATE IN SUCH TALKS BUT WE WOULD HAVE
TO SEE WHETHER THEY WOULD INDEED PROVE POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: A BREZHNEV VISIT HERE WOULD SEEM TO MAKE
SENSE FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, AND FROM RODIONOV'S
REMRKS WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THE VISIT
WILL TAKE PLACE. WE WOULD NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY
THAT SOVS COULD BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY INSTRUMENTAL IN
HELPING BRING ABOUT A BREAKTHROUGH ON ISSUE SUCH AS
LINK BETWEEN BANGLADESH RECOGNITION AND RELEASE OF THE
195 POWS. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOVS HAVE NOT
BEEN UNWILLING TO TRY USE THEIR INFLUENCE FOR SUCH
POLITICAL ENDS, AND THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY LIKE TO SEE
THEMSELVES RECOGNIZED AS PEACEMAKERS IN THE
SUBCONTINENT.

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 10091 211430Z

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